



Effective Health Care

Impact of Iron Infusion Therapy on Dental Health Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Impact of iron infusion therapy on dental health services is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Topic Description

Nominator:	Individual
Nomination Summary:	The nominator expresses concern about potential dental harms from iron infusion therapy.
Key Questions from Nominator:	1. What percentage of patients with severe anemia undergoing iron infusion therapy is at risk for developing dental problems?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- We were unable to determine whether the nominator's question regarding association between dental pathology and iron infusion therapy represents a frequently occurring clinical issue, potential clinical harm, or uncertainty for decision makers. Consultation with one pediatric and one adult hematologist suggested that there is no causal relationship between iron infusion therapy (parenteral iron) and dental pathology. We have reviewed the FDA labels for iron therapies, and no adverse events related to dental pathology were reported. Additionally, we have searched several drug databases and found no mention of dental caries, enamel fracture, or demineralization as a direct result of iron infusion. A literature scan revealed no studies in humans evaluating dental pathology caused by iron treatment.